



PRESENT



AUNT LEAF TIA HOJA

by Barbara Wiechmann

Featuring
Indira Pensado

Digital Engineering & Editing
Takaaki Ando

Opening Sound Cue
J. Hagenbuckle

Directed by
Jeffrey Mousseau



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Ancram Opera House 2020 season is made possible by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo and the New York State Legislature.

Ancram Opera House's 2018 production of Aunt Leaf supported, in part, through a grant from the Martha Boschen Porter Fund, administered by the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation.

Bios

INDIRA PENSADO (Voice) is an actor, director and voice teacher. As an actor and director, she's well known for her powerful use of voice and body for stage using extended voice techniques with strong physicality. Since 2000, she has conducted voice workshops in Buenos Aires, Argentina, United States, Costa Rica, Singapore as well as many places in Mexico. She also has served as vocal coach for several productions in Mexico for actors, and for personalities such as Antonio Salinas (dance), Alicia Martínez (theater director) and Juan Pablo Villa (music performer). Indira trained with Kozanna Lucca from the Roy Hart Theater, with whom she has also developed a methodology for offering this work, as well as with Jonathan Hart. She is a Designated Linklater Professor DLT, since 2012. She is also a member of the Voice and Speech Trainers Association (VASTA), Chair of the VASTA Global Communication Group, and Bronze level lifetime foundation member of Linklater Voice at Orkney, Scotland and a member of two Mexico-based ensembles, Theater Los 4Gatos and Médula Teatro & Research. Indira holds a Bachelor of Arts in Dramatic Literature and Theatre from the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM), and is a Creadores Escénicos con Trayectoria FONCA 2016-2019 grant recipient.

BARBARA WIECHMANN (Playwright): Her plays and poetry for the stage have been produced at P.S. 122, The Ensemble Studio Theatre, New York Theatre Workshop, BACA Downtown, HERE, the Ohio Theatre, The Samuel Beckett Theatre, the Edinburgh, Seattle, Toronto, and Philadelphia Fringe Festivals, and at colleges and universities around the country. She is a New Georges Affiliated Artist, a New Dramatists alum and a past member of the HERE Artist in Residence program. Her plays have been published by Dramatist Publishing, Viking Penguin and Heinemann Press. A two-time New York State Council on the Arts grant recipient and a Jane Chambers award finalist, Barbara is also the creator of the television sitcom "Naturally Sadie," a show for kids about a girl naturalist that aired on the Disney Channel for three seasons. She wrote and collaborated with Jeff Mousseau on the acclaimed premiere of *Aunt Leaf* that was produced at HERE in New York City and subsequently co-presented by the Hudson Opera House and Stageworks/Hudson in Hudson, New York. Most recently she worked with Jeff on a musical adaptation of *The Snow Queen* which was workshopped at the Kennedy Center in Washington and produced at the Ancram Opera House in December 2019. She is a graduate of Hamilton College.

JEFFREY MOUSSEAU (Director), along with Paul Ricciardi, is co-director of Ancram Opera House. His theatre directing credits at AOH include *Homebody* by Tony Kushner (Berkshire Theatre Critics Award, Outstanding Solo Performance), the American premiere of *In Praise of Elephants* by Kevin Dyer, Young Jean Lee's *We're Gonna Die*, *The Snow Queen* adapted by Barbara Wiechmann and her play *Aunt Leaf*, subsequently performed in Aquacalientes, Mexico. Locally, his work has also been seen at Stageworks, Hudson Opera House and Proctors Theater. Other credits: a residency at The Kennedy Center in Washington, numerous productions with the Elliot & IRNE award-winning Coyote Theatre in Boston where he served as founding artistic director for ten years and HERE Arts Center in NYC where he is an alum of the HERE Artist Residency Program.

PLAN B ESTUDIO-TEATRO (Producing Partner) is an independent theatre located in Torréon, Coahuila, Mexico. It is a place for the teaching and practice of performing arts and the development of theater in our region, called "La Laguna". We belong to an association of public places--restaurants, bars and stores--that are not only dedicated to serving the people in our city, but also to contributing to a nonviolent culture. Thanks for being part of Plan B.

Running time is approximately 55 minutes.



The Angram Opera House presents a mix of contemporary theatre, alternative cabaret, storytelling and community programs. Located in a former grange hall in rural Columbia County, AOH offers a unique opportunity to directly engage, up close with visionary theatre artists at the top of their field, yet rarely seen in our region.

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ABOUT ANCRAM OPERA HOUSE

AOH, celebrating its fifth anniversary under new leadership, offers an April through December season of theatre, cabaret, literary, storytelling and community programs.

AOH's theatre productions include *HOMEBOODY* (Berkshire Theatre Critics Award for Outstanding Solo Performance); *WE'RE GONNA DIE*; *THE BROTHERS SIZE* (Berkshire Theatre Critics nominations for Outstanding Ensemble and Outstanding Play); the American premiere of *IN PRAISE OF ELEPHANTS*; *PERFORMING OLANA*, an original site-specific piece staged at Olana; *AUNT LEAF*, also presented in Aguascalientes, Mexico; and the premiere of a new musical adaptation of *THE SNOW QUEEN*.

As an incubator of alternative cabaret, AOH hosts acclaimed artists including Taylor Mac in *HOLIDAY SAUCE* which went on to NYC's Town Hall and San Francisco's Curran Theater, Diana Oh who was subsequently produced at The Bushwick Starr in Brooklyn, and Stew and longtime collaborator Heidi Rodewald in *STAGED DIVES* which was then performed at Joe's Pub in NYC.

CRYSTAL RADIO HOUR features new short stories written by Hudson Valley and Tri-state regional writers, including Wesley Brown, David Rabe and Courtney Maum, that are read by professional actors.

Community storytelling and theatre-making programs are very much at the heart of AOH's programming. *REAL PEOPLE REAL STORIES (RPRS)*, presented twice a year, features local residents sharing personal, authentic narratives. *LOCAL CHARACTERS*, debuting this year, showcases community members in fun, free-wheeling conversations. AOH leads storytelling workshops for young people at the Northeast Community Center and, this fall, 5th and 6th graders at the Taconic Hills School. For adult learners, AOH also offers an annual spring intensive workshop focusing on a particular area of theatre-making such as songwriting in 2019 and playwriting in 2020.

AOH MISSION

Ancram Opera House creates meaningful encounters through the performing arts that forge connection. Through its productions, AOH offers a unique opportunity to directly experience, up close, visionary theatre artists at the top of their field yet seldom seen in the region. AOH's community-based arts and storytelling programs with local residents encourage day-to-day participation in the performing arts. AOH seeks to foster a sense of place for a rural region and contribute to a healthier and happier community.

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List as of Nov. 11, 2020. If we inadvertently omitted your name or there is a correction to it, let us know and please accept our apologies. We are grateful to all of our supporters.



To help bring performances and educational programs to the region, we invite you to become a Friend of the Ancram Opera House. We need the help of individuals like you who understand what it means to have an arts and culture space like this in Ancram.

Friends of Ancram Opera House will be thanked in printed programs, and also receive invitations to special Friends' events. Most importantly, by becoming a Friend of AOH, you join a very special community of individuals ensuring that our activities can benefit all in the area, including free performances and theater workshops for kids.

Ancram Opera House is a 501c3 nonprofit organization; contributions are tax-deductible as allowed by law. All funds raised go directly to support annual programming costs. Thank you for whatever you can do!

Yes, I'd like to become a friend of Ancram Opera House!

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